Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common type of lung cancer. It has 4 stages (1, 2, 3, 4). Each stage also has sub-stages that are named using letters (A, B, C). The stage of NSCLC is based on the size of the cancer and whether it has spread outside of the lung or to other parts of the body.

**Stage 3**

Stage 3 = Cancer is found in the lungs, lymph nodes, and around the middle of the chest.

- **3A** = Cancer is larger than the size of a peach (7 cm)
- **3B** = Cancer is any size, has spread to areas in the middle chest and lymph nodes near the collar bone
- **3C** = Cancer is any size and has spread to areas in the middle chest and distant lymph nodes in the chest

**What is Stage 3 NSCLC?**

**Lymph nodes** are small bean shaped structures in your body that help to fight sickness and remove harmful substances. Cancer often spreads to the lymph nodes.

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**SIZE CHART**

Centimeters (cm) are used to measure cancer.
Why is Biomarker Testing Important?

People with NSCLC should have biomarker testing before treatment starts to look for certain “targets” on cancer cells. This is done by testing a piece of a tumor or blood and looks for many biomarkers at one time.

If treatment stops working, repeat biomarker testing may be needed if to look for other targets.

Each person’s cancer is different. Biomarker testing offers the information needed to make the best treatment choice for you.

For more information about biomarkers and biomarker testing, see GO2foundation.org or call the Helpline at 800-298-2436.

Treatments for Stage 3

**Surgery** is more likely in stage 3A and may occur:

- Before targeted therapy
- Before or after immunotherapy
- Before or after chemoradiation

Based on your needs, the surgeon may remove part of the lung or the whole lung.

- **Lobectomy**: Removes one lobe of the lungs.
- **Bi-lobectomy**: Removes two lobes of the lungs.
- **Pneumonectomy**: Removes the whole lung.

Lung cancer surgery involves careful testing of the lymph nodes near the cancer to see if it has spread.

**Targeted Therapy** kills cancer by attacking a “target” on cancer cells. The target is found through biomarker testing. The type of targeted therapy used is based on what biomarkers you have.

**Immunotherapy** helps your body’s own immune system slow or stop cancer from growing.

**Chemoradiation** combines chemotherapy and radiation and is the treatment of choice if surgery and targeted therapy are not an option.

- **Chemotherapy** kills cells that grow and divide very fast, like cancer cells. Often, chemotherapy is given every 3 weeks for several cycles.
- **Radiation Therapy** uses high energy beams aimed right at the tumor to kill cancer cells.

Always think about joining a clinical trial every time you need to make a choice about treatment. By being part of a trial, you may be able to try new ways to treat your cancer and help us learn more about the best ways to treat stage 3 lung cancer.

**LungMATCH**

To learn more about clinical trials, visit LungMATCH.org or contact our HelpLine at 800-298-2436 to speak with a Clinical Trial Navigator.